

HISTORY OF JOHN CROOK, (came to Utah in 1856 and to Wasatch County 1859)

I was born in Township of Trenton, Lancashire, England, October eleventh, 1831. I attended Bertinshaw Sunday School, "Methodist", until between 10 and 11 years old.

About 9 years old I was sent to the Eagley Bridge Mills, winding spools for Father. He was tape weaving. My sister Alice and I made a full team, half of the time each in factory, and the other attending school. Children were not allowed full time until 13 yrs. past, though I was of large stature and passed examination about 12 yrs. I was brought up strictly moral and was religiously inclined.

My father heard of a new religion and went to Bolton to hear them preach, and in Sept. 1840 he and Robert Holden were baptised into the Church of Jesus Christ, L.D.S. About this time my father would have me and sister Alice go with him to Bolton attending the meetings, 2½ miles, walking by his side, each hold onto his hands. It was not until I was about 12 years old that I attended regularly. About that time a Sunday School started and in course of time I became a teacher. In the summer of 1844 the L.D.S. held meeting in a Chapel on Bury St. beside a great factory. One Sunday after coming out of Sunday School and going into the meeting house I saw the stand was decorated with crepe; I inquired what that was for, and was told this was in honor of the martyrdom of the Prophet and Patriarch Joseph and Hyrum Smith. In the spring of 1847 I was baptised by Uncle Peter Mayho in the brook by Hamllith Wood.

While a little boy in petticoats, I was playing in the fire, my clothes caught fire, a neighbor Lady ducked me into a rain barrel. We lived 7 years in that house, moved to another house, lived about 7 years there, and then moved to a new house called Haslems Row on Darwin Road near Dunsbar Village. Our village was called Toppings; we lived about half way between. After arriving at 12 years I was set to weaving tapes, attending 2 looms of 50 shuttles, under Wm. Cooper, earning at first 6 shillings per week, increased to 8 shillings with overtime, sometimes earning only 5 shillings in 2 weeks. Pay day came around every two weeks.

Jan. 1st. 1851. We left old England to come to America in the ship Ellen. There were about 475 passengers, about 25 crew and captain, making in all about 500 souls. We left river Mersey, Liverpool, about the 8th. of January. Cloudy disagreeable day raining and blowing in the evening very dark. About 12 o'clock at night a schooner crossed our track and we collided with her. She caught in our jibboom, broke it, swung around to the side of the vessel and broke the main yard arm and fore yard. We had to put in Cardigan Bay, North Wales for repairs. We stayed till the 23rd. of Jan. (adverse winds the cause) and then set sail again. One week in the Irish channel, head wind all the time. The morning of the 31st. when we got up we had fair wind all sails reefed, waves running mountain high. Going about 9 miles an hour. Had very good weather then until we got to the West India islands, then we were becalmed two or three days. We sailed between Jamaica and San Domingo Islands. March 13th. came in sight of the Mississippi; could see the line of the river waters a long time.

Sixteenth a tug boat took two more vessels beside ours up to New Orleans. March 18th. started up the river for St. Louis; we paid \$2.50 per head, baggage free. 25th. landed in St. Louis. It was very cold. Snow on the ground while there, stayed until April 13th. Then started for Kanesville or Council Bluffs city. Fare 5 dollars per head. Twenty days on the road, on a sand bar three days, very cold weather, river very low. Had to back down many a time. Great amount of snags to be seen. Landed all safe May 2nd. The Saints were fitting to start for Salt Lake City or Utah. Peter Holden bought a farm from a man named

Henderson, about 100 acres, 10 acres plowed, the rest wood land, three log cabins on the farm. We had a very hot, wet summer. Every night clouds would rise in the west. There would be rain, thunder and lightning, terrible to behold.

In the Spring, Father worked six weeks fitting up wagons. They said all should go as wanted to go. But when the time came around for going we could not get a chance to go (nor could they said). My brother-in-law, Edmund Kay, and I worked 2 or 3 weeks, chopping and splitting timber for wagons and we were engaged as teamsters to go with a train of machinery for working up the beet into sugar. In charge of John Taylor and Russel. But father said we must stay and go all together, if we could get a chance. Peter Holden sold his farm to a man named McPherson that same year for less than he gave for it and crossed the plains with Thomas Hichens.

All the talk through the winter and spring was to fit up and prepare to gather in a body to Utah coming summer. So everybody that could work turned in and were organized in companies, some working fitting up wagons, chains and yokes etc., others in timber splitting and preparing the timbers. About the first of May they commenced organizing companies and starting them out.

Apostle Orson Hyde with Feramorz Little were in charge of this season's emigration. About 20 companies I think left for Utah. All that could possibly fit up did so, some yoking up cows and yearling steers. I say several teams with yearlings yoked in.

When Father was told that there was no show for him to get away he felt very bad over it. After the authorities promising that all that turned in and worked, none should be left behind. In fact he never seemed to get over it. He seemed to have no life left for anything, and in the month of July he took the chills and fever. In about 2 weeks he was a corpse, died broken hearted. He died on the 2nd. of August; on the 3rd. he was buried in the cemetery, one half mile north of Kanesville. Myself and brotherinlaw had to dig the grave, none coming around to give a helping hand. An old man named Greer living close by took compassion about the last moment and proffered to haul the corpse and did so to the cemetery, this being all that was present outside of our own family, we filling the grave. This seemed very hard to bear being strangers also in the country.

Peter Holden having sold his farm, we had to look out for another home. Hearing of some improvements to be sold, one mile south of Kanesville, in what was called George A. Smith's hollow, we went to examine said places and bought two claims opposite each other. One of four acres, under fence and log cabin on it, and one unfinished claim belonging to one Saunders. Paying him five dollars for the quit claim deed. And the other opposite owned by Edward Pax, three acres fenced with brush fence and log cabin, four dollars. So we moved right away and put in some crops. This hollow was a very sickly place facing the Missouri swamp bottoms and caused chills and fever very much. Therefore myself and sister Alice contracted the disease which stayed with us until next spring, shaking every day until cold weather set in. The chills were lighter and not so often, say about every 3 days so we concluded to move out of this sickly hollow.

Along in the winter we rented a house on a claim about one half mile east of Kanesville belonging to a Widow of a Minister, who had bought many claims cheap the summer before when the Saints left for the valleys, and who had now become very wealthy from the same.

I was still suffering with the disease and had become very weak. I was becoming very low in circumstances. Being near the timber I took a contract of cord wood of this same lady and would go out in the middle of the day and cut wood. Took one about one week to earn 50 pounds of flour she furnishing said flour and sour at that, no money those days. We got down every poor and suffered a good deal for food, one morning we had nothing but some musty corn on the cob, so I ground it in the coffee mill. This was about the lowest ebb. Got some flour this day and we began to recruit up from this time on.

Being tired of those claims and the sickly hollow, we sold the claims to Lawyers Cassidy and Test, for about ten dollars each. Having divided up the property after Father's death, brotherinlaw Edmund Kay sold one claim and I the other. He had bought a claim near to where we lived the first year in Hatch Hollow.

The following spring, 1854, I hired out to Mr. Voorhees, merchant, to do his chores for \$10.00 per month and board. We moved into a house just north of Voorhees store. I worked day work until fall and then I engaged to a surveyor who was going north sectionizing Ida and Monona counties, and was gone about two months for \$30.00 per month and board. I worked with Voorhees about one year and then hired to J.B. ~~Stutts~~ Stutsman, merchant, doing his chores and working his team on shares. I bought two city lots in Stutsman's addition for \$65.00 and built a house on the same. My brotherinlaw and I made an ice house on same and put up ice to sell.

In peddling ice I became acquainted with my wife, then Miss Giles who was acting as servant at B.R. Pegrans. The family of Mr. Giles were intending to move to Utah in the spring of 1856 so I concluded to sell out and move also. A Mr. Armstrong offered me \$275.00 so I took him up. At this time I had a span of horses bought from Mr. Shackelton, sold it to Mr. Bryant my neighbor. So I bought a light wagon and two yoke of steers, costing me \$250.00 in all. By the time I was ready to start on the journey I had about ten dollars left.

It was understood that a company of saints would be organized about the first of June. An Elder Cunningham from Salt Lake City had charge of the Church affairs in the Bluffs. So the Giles's folks, some four wagons of them and myself gathered in a ravine south of the city called Hang Hollow, making up and preparing our necessary outfit.

About the first of June 1856, we left Hang Hollow for Florence, Nebraska. The gathering place was about six miles from Bluff City across the Missouri River. We crossed our wagons on a ferry boat the second day of June. The first company of saints to cross the plains was organized about the fourth of June under the direction of Philo Merrill as captain who had crossed the plains nine times before. The company consisted of some fifty wagons, divided in companies of ten with a sub captain.

The Giles and myself were in E.B. Tripp's company. Elder E.B. Tripp was returning from a mission to the Eastern States, he had two wagons of his own. The first day's drive was about six miles and the next day to Elk Horn river ferry, a trying time to all who were green hands with cattle. In going down the hill, which was very steep to the ferry, my two wild yoke of cattle started to run, and ran the wagon into a deep gully washed out by rains in the road. Result a broken axle. A grove of hard wood close by supplied a new one and a few spare ones to take along. The end of one stick which was a little long I made into a maul, which I have to this day, 1893. This axle was put into Father Giles' wagon on big Sandy near~~x~~ Green River. After completing all repairs and crossing the river we were thoroughly organized with camp and cattle guards. Being then in an Indian country it required a thorough system of watchfulness.

All went along very peacefully until one night camping on Wood River, something was seen to crawl in among the cattle and the cattle stampeded, overturning some wagons in their pelmell rush. It was supposed the stampede was caused by some roughs, who followed us from Council Bluffs with that intention. Cattle when crossing the plains in Indian countries also are very easily stampeded. Here we had to stay three days gathering up cattle, some never being found, having got mixed with the buffalo. Father Giles lost two good cows in the buffalo herds. This season buffalo were very thick on the plains, herds of thousands were seen every day. We sometimes had to stop the train while the herds went past to water. One day while nooning on Wood River, a big herd came charging on us from the hills. All hands were called out with guns and fired into them to turn them off. Another time while traveling buffalo charged our train and stampeded our whole train, causing some accidents, some ladies I believe got badly bruised, being thrown out of the wagons.

Most of the emigrant trains traveled on the south side of the Platte River up to old Fort Laramie. But we traveled all the way on the North side. Captain Merrill said we would find the best feed on the north side of the river. In going over the Black hills to Sweet Water creek we had to camp one night without water, a drive of about 35 miles between water. At Independence Rock the train was halted for one hour, giving the people a chance to gather saleratus. The country is a vast plain here with saleratus swamps and stretches of sage brush intervening. I gathered about one bushel in big chunks. This article was much sought after when arriving in the valleys. But I held onto mine which I found to my benefit in after years. This article in the crude state is pure if not so nice looking as the imported, which had to be hauled in wagons as other merchandise one thousand miles.

After leaving the Platte river and traveling through the Black hill country, it was thought best to divide the train into three divisions as feed was in smaller patches and more scattered than on the great Platte meadows. Dr. Peter Clinton was appointed over one division and E.B. Tripp another one. Both these gentlemen were of Salt Lake City and well known. Captain Merrill kept the larger division. And thus we traveled about one half day's drive apart until we reached the Big Mountain. In going over this mountain we had the first view of the Salt Lake valley at a distance which made all rejoice, realizing that our journey's end was near.

On the 14th. of August we nooned in a little valley between what is called Big and Little mountains. This valley is at the head of Parley's canyon. No road down there, travel went over Little mountain and down Emigration canyon. While nooning here a small train of wagons under the charge of Mr. Parrish came along in a rush. They had left Florence about the same time as our train, and we had encountered them once or twice on the Platte bottoms. They had bragged of beating us into Salt Lake City by two weeks or more, as their company was small and would have the advantage of feed etc. Teams they said would be in better condition. But when they undertook to climb the hill the roads being slippery with the showers, their teams gave out and had to double and triple in some cases. Well, we had quite a time also in getting over the mountains. So we had to camp in Emigration canyon that night. Early next morning we hitched up and about four miles down the canyon the road passed over what is termed a Hogs back, a road cut through a hill. And then you had a full view of Salt Lake City and valley. There was the blue water of the Salt Lake in the far west and the beautiful settlements in the foreground. Enchanting to the eye. There was the scene before us that we had long looked for, and read and sung about, the city of the Saints. Oh what a joy filled each bosom at the sight. About noon the

15th of August we rolled into Salt Lake City and went into camp on Emigration square. We hitched teams, appointed guards and sent cattle to the range some three miles north and beyond Ensign Peak, there to be herded until such time as all parties had made arrangements to scatter throughout the territory wherever friends or connections resided.

The Giles and myself, four teams of us started for Provo City on the 19th of August and camped on the Jordan River that night. Next day Mr. J. B. Milner of Provo met us. Being informed of our coming and being a friend of Mr. Giles he escorted us to Provo City that night. By the time we entered the main streets of Provo it had become very dark. A storm was brewing on the mountains and you could hardly see your team ahead if dark colored. We went a few blocks south and then turned east toward the high mountain. It looked as though we were going to run against it. But we arrived all safe at Mr. Milner's. Next morning in looking east we beheld snow on the mountains nearly half way down. This as a beautiful sight to behold, never having seen such a sight before at this time of the year. We camped in our wagons for some time in Mr. Milner's lot. We went to work helping the farmers to harvest. One George Ekin had a piece of wheat lodged very much and he gave me the job of cutting it with a sickle. Not having done much of that kind of work it was slow business, and I nearly cut my little finger off on my left hand. But I kept at it until I got the patch down. Harvest being over in about one month, we went to cutting cane on the lake shore for feed which had grown very tall. This cane is a kind of a flag growing about ten feet high and very thick on the ground, making very good winter feed.

On September 6th. 1856 I married Mary Giles in Provo City. Bp. J. O. Duke performed the ceremony. I was still sleeping in the wagon, so our first night after marriage was in the wagon. And many more until sometime about November. Then Thomas Rasband, my brotherinlaw, suggested that we rent a house for the winter. So we rented a house of one room from Father Cluff, and we still slept in the wagon all winter. The house being small we could not very well all sleep in the house comfortably. I had the dysentery all winter which often attacks new comers in Utah and it brought me down very low. I had to use opium pills to ease pain so that I could sleep a little at nights. We all worked together through the season and shared alike. We bought ten acres of land joining on the east line of Provo City and got James E. Snow, county surveyor of Utah county, to divide it up into lots, giving us two lots each, six families of the Giles connections. Each sold off a yoke of cattle to purchase bread stuffs also land for farming purposes. We made some adobes and built two small houses for Father and Thomas Giles. Next year we built two more houses, one for me and wife and one for Thomas Rasband and family. This was the agreement to work together until we all had houses to live in. John and Fred Giles were not married, the other two having city lots in the piece of land bought for that purpose. One yoke of cattle was the purchase price I believe, valued at \$100.00 from Jared Bullock.

The winter of '56 and '57 was very severe, and snow deep. Mr. Rasband and I hauled willows from Provo river bottoms for firewood. Some times we would sink up to our armpits where snow had lodged on willow bushes. This made poor firewood. When we found that parties were going up on the mountains and sliding timber down on the snow we all started this game too. We got lots of wood then and got logs to make lumber for our buildings next summer. We hauled the logs to a saw mill a little north of the city owned by a gentleman named Mills. In the spring I began to feel better. I got three acres of land in the fort field so called, for my share of the divide. The spring time came around and time to put in crops. I told Father Giles I had never done any plowing but with his help

I learned how and we raised a big crop. We had about two acres in wheat and about one half acre in potatoes. The soil was full of alkali and patches of wheat burned out, making about one half acre loss in harvest. We had eighty bushels of wheat and 75 bushels of potatoes. One of my oxen died ~~xxxx~~ but we had grain and potatoes, plenty for bread and to buy another ox. By the way in the fall of 1856 bread stuffs were scarce, wheat \$2.00 per bushel, flour \$6.00 per 100 pounds. Farmers were just harvesting a crop after two years grass hopper war and before harvest of 1857 breadstuffs were scarce again, we all ran short of flour and had to eat barley flour and bran bread until wheat was hard enough to grind, near onto two months I think it was.

On the 24th of July word came that U.S. was sending an army to exterminate the Mormons and a whole load of ropes to hang our leaders. Preparations were made to fortify all passes to Utah. A company of infantry was called from Provo to Echo Canyon. Thomas Rasband, Geo. Giles, Fred Giles and I were in the company. William E. Nuttal was captain when called out. First camped on the Provo river about the time of October conference. Time the morning star came up we were ordered to march on foot. Nooned at Lehi. Marched again. Boys were giving out all along, and baggage wagons picking them up. George Giles and I took a jog trot for a mile or so down point of hill. We got to big Cottonwood Creek a little before sun-down Brother Rasband came in soon after us and lay down. We said we were going to have supper first. We arrived in Echo Canyon about tenth of October, formed camp four miles up from Weber river. A narrow pass with perpendicular rocks. Made a dam in creek, built fortifications on rocks. I was selected cook for our platoon, ten men, Martin Mills, Lieut.: Hyrum Pace, Col. for Utah County. They drilled us every morning, provisions were scarce, sometimes all flour and then again all meat. Heavy snows on the mountains caused delays in arrival of supply teams.

Well, we camped ~~thems~~ about eight weeks. U.S. troops settled at Bridger. We got home about the 10th of December, 1857. Governor Brigham Young gave orders for a general move in spring all north of Utah County. Spring 1858 was backward. I put in the Needhams land again. About that time the move began. Teams were recalled from Utah County to help move people from Salt Lake City. The road was lined with teams, I made three trips to Salt Lake City. I brought one family, man and two wives, mother and daughter. Daughter said she was only thirteen years old but had a baby also. The man professed to be an eye doctor.

The U.S. troops stayed all winter, 1857-8, at Fort Bridger. Col. Kane of Philadelphia came around by California and counseled with Church authorities for a compromise. Governor Gummings and Major Powel came in and an agreement was made that the troops were not to settle within forty miles of Salt Lake City. All people had moved from Salt Lake City leaving guards with orders to burn up everything if necessary. The troops passed along and settled in Cedar Valley. During the move many men being idle Brigham Young proposed to build a road through Provo Canyon to Provo valley.

While the road was being built, surveyor James C. Snow and a company of men surveyed North field one and a half mile square. In Sept. the road was completed and freight teams passed through the Camp Floyd.

In October another company of men and surveyor came up and surveyed one and a half mile square west and south of Heber City. I was lead chain man. I received 25 acres of land and ten dollars in cash for surveying. Through the winter of 1858 and '59 several meetings were held in Provo City with regard to settling the Provo valley. With William Meeks as presiding Elder an organization was effected. On the last day of April 1859 the following brethren started for the valley with three teams, plows, grain and provisions; Thomas Rasband, John Crook, C.N. Carroll,

John and James Carlyle, John Jordan, Jesse Bond, William Giles, William Carpenter  
Night came on in the canyon when we reached a snow slide at the Blue dugway one  
mile below South Park and we made camp. Next morning we pulled wagons to pieces  
packed upon slides, hitched on cattle, moved on again and camped at the ranch of  
Wm. N. Walls first day of May. Next morning moved on and came to Daniels ranch,  
creek washed deep, found a beaver dam, crossed teams on ice dam. Two miles farther  
came to Wm. Meeks ranch and camped there for breakfast, and then walked on foot to  
the proposed site of Heber City. Looking north we saw two black objects moving  
and supposed them to be animals. We started for them and found two teams plowing  
Wm. Davis and son with two yokes of cattle and Robert Broadhead and James David  
with two yoke of cattle. They had been there three days and got about one acre  
plowed each. Mr. Davis was sowing wheat, the boy harrowing. They came from Nephi  
Juab county. We moved our camp to theirs, now called London Springs. We built  
wickeups of willows and grass large enough to shelter 30 men when necessary and  
on the fifth of May we were plowing. Thomas Rasband and I doubled teams, James  
Carlyle with two yoke.

A company was formed to bring the water from Provo River in a canal onto this  
bench. So early in the spring of 1859 many parties went to work on the canal.  
The spring was late and very cold in the month of April. Ice formed in chunks in  
the water, wind blew cold from the north. We had to wear overcoats and mittens  
when working. I spent about three weeks on this canal and got discouraged at the  
outlook, for the water was being brought in a channel through a slide of loose  
rock which extended about one-fourth mile. The intention was to puddle that part  
of the canal, I gave up in despair, never receiving anything for my labor. Most  
of the parties interested left in despair also. After some years when railroad  
facilities brought in powder cheap, a company formed again and blasted the ledge  
of rock right in the very line of our canal, and there is quite a stream of water  
running there now.

Along the summer of 1858 a wagon road was built through Provo Canyon to Provo  
Valley so called and a plat of land  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles square was surveyed in said valley  
in the month of July by J.C. Snow. Water froze nearly solid in a pint cup in the  
night so parties said while camping on a creek close by the land, this was mostly  
meadow. The intention was to make ranches for cattle, too cold for grain so said.  
Along through the winter of 1858 and 59 several meetings were held and discussed  
the feasibility of settling in the valley the following summer. Some said they  
thought it was too cold for agricultural purposes. Others again said they thought  
small grain and potatoes might be raised. Quite a few had their minds set on  
having the valley as a large cattle range and so they argued against raising crops  
of cereals. Along towards spring an organization was effected. Wm. Meeks was  
appointed to take charge of affairs. After the 20th. of April Thomas Rasband and  
myself left off working on the canal spoken of above and went home to fix up  
wagons and supplies to start as soon as possible to Provo valley. We could not  
hear anything definite about a company starting so a few of us got together and  
made a start on the 29th. of April.

We harvested some 80 bushels of wheat in the fall. The summer was very warm  
and we raised some watermelons also.

Along in June the west half of Heber was laid off in city lots by Jesse Fuller,  
eight blocks south and five and a half blocks west, myself and C.N. Carroll acting  
as chainmen. In July we moved camp to the city, and then commenced hauling logs  
and building a house. Before this in June while camping at Springs we built forty  
rods of fence on east string of north field, brother Rasband and myself working  
together.

We hauled two loads of poles a day, only about two miles to haul and I think we put the same into fence each day until our portion was complete.

The first baby born in the valley was to Wm. Davidson and wife. They named it Timpanogas. The second baby born was our daughter Sarah on November 28, 1859. The winter 59 and 60 was very severe. In hauling wood from river on wagons even in December could hear wagons squeak on the snow a mile or two. We built our houses in a fort style, forty rods square, 4 rods on fort line to each family as a protection against Indians. Seventeen families stayed all winter in fort line. We hauled our grain to Provo 28 miles to grind into flour. After Christmas steady cold weather prevailed until the first Thursday in March. We held fast meeting in Thomas Rasbands house, and all hands prayed fervently to the Lord to temper the elements and cause the snow to melt, that we might be able to put in crops in the season thereof. And by noon the eaves on the north side of the house were dripping water from the snow melting, and by the middle of the month snow was about all gone.

Many families moved from Provo this month. On about the 23rd. all hands turned out and went east of Heber to Springs and Lake Creek. Plowing furrows and brought them all into one channel. Many families moved to Heber, 1860, until I believe the fort was about filled up, some 40 families. The season was very favorable, raising large crops. Built log meeting house in July and celebrated Pioneer day in the building. Were going to build a bowery but John M. Murdock suggested that we complete the house and we did so. On the 14th of July Wm. Fenn was found drowned in Provo river. The river was high and in crossing on foot the current took him down. He had been in the stream about two weeks. Had to move him on a sheet, dug a hole on bank of river and buried him there. Father Wood acted as coroner."

When Wasatch Stake was organized on July 5, 1877 and Heber was divided into the East and West wards, John Crook was chosen first counselor to Bishop William Forman of Heber West ward. He was especially interested in music, genealogy and history. He was considered one of Wasatch County's best historians. He was a member of the committee who looked after the men who were working on the Salt Lake Temple from Wasatch Stake, when it was being rushed to completion. He was a delegate to a number of Irrigation conventions of the West. He was the first Choir leader in Heber. His vocation was farming and stock-raising. He owned one of the first red sand stone quarry of the valley. He was the father of nine children, namely: John W. Crook, Sarah Crook Carlile, Heber Giles Crook, Mary Jane Duke, Thomas Hutchinson Crook, Frederick Crook and Margaret Crook Callister. Two sons died in infancy. Two sons and nine grand-sons were members of Bishopsrics of the wards of the County, and two sons and nine grandsons filled missions, two in South Africa, one in England and one in Germany. At present time his youngest daughter is the Stake President of Y.L.M.I.A. of Deseret Stake. His oldest daughter was president of Relief Society of Heber Second ward for many years. Although he read a great deal he never wore eye glasses. He died March 31, 1921 at the age of 89 years, leaving six children, 37 grandchildren and twenty-six great grandchildren.

Compiled by Grand-daughter- Ethel Johnson

Mary Giles Crook was especially interested with the sick and spent many days and nights with them and the dying. In 1883 when diphtheria was so bad she spent much of her time with the sick. She acted as First Councilor to Sister Katie Forman in the Relief Society. It is said they became very dear friends. She also acted as first Councilor in L M I A of the ward for a number of years. The young people loved her very much. Mary and her husband decided that they should have a new house made of red sand stone and in this house was to be a cellar of two rooms for their grand-children to play in, they enjoyed playing in this cellar very much. When the new house was completed and they were moving from the old house to the new one, the children were told to be careful and keep the new house always looking new.

One time during Mary's life, there was an earth quake, they looked for a second one and Mary took all the children in the neighborhood to the cellar in her home, thinking they were safer there. The southeast room in the new house was the bedroom.

In the morning on her fifty-fifth birthday, Mary went out to the barn yard to take care of her chickens, she was gone longer than was necessary, so her youngest child Margaret investigated and found her lying on the ground, she was taken to the house and put to bed. The Dr. was called and he pronounced her ill a Stroke. All the help and care was given that could be had at that time. She lay ill for five months. On Sep~~20~~13, 1888 she passed away, leaving her husband, seven children and six grand-children.

Compiled by a Grand-daughter,  
Ethel Duke Johnson.

# A. C. Duke's Mother's mother

Mary Giles was born April 13, 1833 in Calvertson, Nottingshire England, to William Giles and Sarah Huskinson. She grew to womanhood there, she and the rest of her father's family belonged to the Baptist Church. She was baptized into the L.D.S. Church in 1850. She and the rest of her father's family made preparation for a long voyage to Utah, United States of America. They sailed from Huskinson Docks England, on the Ship NEW ENGLAND on March 1854. She was on the ocean six weeks. Mary's fathers family arrived at New Orleans April 25th. Here they took passage on a Steam vessel, St Nicholas, for St. Louis where they arrived the 6th of May.

Her sister Elizabeth (Betsy) came down from Quincy and met the rest of the Giles family at St. Lewis, after a few hours stay in St. Lewis they left for Quincy. Here Mary was employed at the home of Mrs Pegrans, while there she met John Crook who was peddling ice to this home, their friendship ripened into love. They wished to be married but Mary's father said he wished they would wait until they reached Utah. They left for Utah in E. B. Tripp's Company and arrived in Salt Lake City August 15, 1856.

On September 6, 1856, not a month after their arrival, Mary was married to her young man John Crook in Provo, by Bishop Jonathan O. Duke, Sr. Their first home was in a covered wagon box. Their next home was in a two-room adobe house. She was very happy in her new home. The winters of 56 and 57 were very severe and the snow was very deep, her husband hauled willows from the River bottoms for firewood, some times while working he would sink up to his armpits in the snow. In the fall of 56 wheat was very scarce and flour was \$6.00 per hundred lbs.. she like many other pioneer women had to grind the wheat by hand in the little coffee mill. *when*

On July 24, 1856 word came that U.S. was sending an Army to exterminate the Mormons. A Company of infantry was called from Provo. Mary's husband was called so Mary was alone for two months.

In 1859, Mary with her husband, came to Provo valley. There were ten other families in this Company of pioneers coming to a new valley to build new homes.

On November 28th. of this same year, a baby girl came to the home of Mohn and Mary Crook, they named her Sarah Elizabeth, this was the second child born in the valley. Her home like many other homes was built in the Fort. This was protection against the Indians. After leaving the Fort they built a three-room log house. Later they built a red sand stone home which is still standing and is occupied by a grand-daughter, Mable Crook Lyon. The sand stone was from John's quarry, 5 miles East of Town.

At the time of the Diphtheria epidemic, she went into the homes and helped care for the sick and dying. She acted as a counselor in the Relief Society to President Katie Foreman.

She died Sept. 5, 1888, at the age of 55 years.

copied by Ethel Johnson  
a granddaughter

Please use this history of grandmother if you  
are using histories. I have and <sup>been</sup> ~~ever~~ I confuse  
about my grandmother if you ~~or~~ wish it,  
my address is Ethel D Johnson, 1408 E. 55th, Heber City, Utah